THE MURDERER

OF

THREE-HUSBANDS,

THIS woman was born a few miles below Quebec, about the year 1730, during the dominion of France over Canada. Her parents G....., were farmers in ordinary circumstances. During youth, she evinced no extraordinary ill disposition, but displayed a very decided turn of mind. She was married at an early age; her husband died sometime after, in apparent health, and no suspicions were, at the time, entertained tending to incriminate her. A second husband met the same fate. As in the previous instance, nothig as yet appeared to justify or necessitate legal investigation.

The third husband who left her his name, for ever famous in the annals of crime, was Dodier. She attempted to strangle this man by means of a rope passed round his neck, when fast

BIBLIOTHEQUE S.M.P. QUEBEC

asleep on his bed, in a state of partial inebriety, but this unfortunate man warded off this death blow, for, happening to awake he freed his neck from the noose of the rope, whilst his wife had run outside of the house to pull at the other end of the rope, which she had passed through a small aperture in the lower part of the outside door, in order to cause death by strangulation. The poor fellow seemingly taking this as a joke, passed a bolster or pillow in the rope noose and held it firmly, offering at the same time, a jerking resistance, as he slowly allowed it to reach the door against which it was firmly held, until she thought her nefarious design had been accomplished.

But great was her amazement and stupefaction, as she walked in the house, at finding her husband very quietly sitting on his bed, staring at her.

Under the sudden impulse of shame, fear or confusion, she threw herself on her knees, craving for pardon readily granted by her husband.

However, this man was doomed to perish by her hands, sometime after she struck him on the forehead and temples with a hammer till life ceased. In this third homicide, the marks then inflicted, left her no prospect of concealment. Her father acquainted with the deed, lamented and asked her, in his anguish, how she could save herself, when she replied:— " Father you will help me in dragging the

" body to the stable and laying it at the horses " feet, in order to make it appear, as though " he had been trampled under the horses feet." On executing this attempt at concealment, she pierced the scull pretty deeply with a dung fork.

Both individuals were apprehended, (Sir George Murray, being at that time 1st Governor of Canada after its capitulation.)

Her aged father, for her sake, had assumed all the responsibility, by giving himself as the perpetrator of the crime; but in the act of preparing for death, according to the Ritual of his Church, (Catholic) he avowed the truth to the Ministers, who remonstrated the impropriety of the assumption and urged him to denounce his daughter.

This wretch, had with complacency, accepted in her behalf, the sacrifice of her aged father's life. She was soon convicted and sentenced to death.

On the eve of the execution, she publicly confessed her deeds of blood, stating that she had destroyed her two first husbands, by pouring fused lead in their ears. She was executed and her body enclosed in this iron cage, remained exposed for a long time in Point Lévy, till by special permission of the Governor, it was taken and buried as appears by public records.

Au lecteur étranger à la langue Anglaise.

Il suffira de dire (vû que la tradition est généralement bien connue,) que cette femme avait successivement épousé trois maris ; qu'elle détruisit les deux premiers en leur coulant du plomb dans l'oreille ; qu'elle tua le troisième en lui asserant des coups de marteaux sur la tête, ayant falli à l'étrangler dans le principe ; qu'elle fut exécutée et exposée dans cette cage conformément au jugement porté contre elle et reposant dans nos archives.

Ce volume doit être rendu à la dernière date indiquée ci-dessous.